UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GEOPHYSICAL AND LITHOLOGIC LOGS OF NINE

TEST HOLES DRILLED DURING 1978

IN HARDING COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Ву

Frank B. Kistner

Open-File Report 80-852

This report has not been edited for conformity with U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards or stratigraphic nomenclature

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To convert English units	Multiply by	To obtain metric units
Inches (in)	2.54	Centimeters (cm)
Feet (ft)	0.3048	Meters (m)

Abbreviations

brn - brown
carb - carbonaceous
lt - light
LTD - Logged Total Depth
NR - No Record
ss - sandstone
w/ - with

GEOPHYSICAL AND LITHOLOGIC LOGS OF NINE TEST HOLES DRILLED DURING 1978 IN HARDING COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

By Frank B. Kistner

INTRODUCTION

Between October 25 and November 1, 1978, nine coal test holes were drilled and geophysically logged near Ludlow, in Harding County, South Dakota (fig. 1). Drilling was conducted by personnel (and drilling equipment) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as part of an ongoing USGS program to evaluate and classify mineral lands in the public domain. The purpose of the program is to gather data on the thickness, extent, correlation, quality, and recoverability of coal beds, and the thickness and lithologic characteristics of the associated rocks in the Tertiary Tongue River and Ludlow-Cannonball Members of the Fort Union Formation in the Williston Basin.

The occurrence of lignite in northwestern South Dakota has been discussed by several writers (Winchester and others, 1916; Searight, 1930; Baker, 1952). Discovery of uranium associated with these lignites has drawn the attention of numerous investigators to this area since the mid-1950's (Curtiss, 1955; Denson and others, 1959; Pipiringos and others, 1965; Dane, 1978). Several authors (Hares, 1928; Kepferle and Culbertson, 1955; Rehbein, 1977) have discussed the general geology, stratigraphy, and depositional environments of the thicker lignite deposits in North Dakota. These discussions apply in a general way to the coal geology of northwestern South Dakota.

Although considerable uranium exploration drilling has been conducted in the Ludlow area, there has been no previous coal drilling to the writer's knowledge. This report presents geophysical logs and field lithologic descriptions lagged (or corrected in depth intervals) to match the geophysical logs. Test holes CD-78001 through CD-78071, inclusive, and test hole CD-78081 were drilled in Wyoming and their logs were presented in a report by Kistner and others (1980). Table 1 lists the locations and test-hole numbers of all holes drilled in Harding County, South Dakota, during the 1978 field season.

Specific drill-site locations, following the system of land survey used by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, appear on the individual log headings. The locations are expressed as distances, in feet, scaled from section lines as they appear on topographic quadrangle sheets. Elevations are approximate for all test holes.

A conventional rotary drill was used, with circulating water as the usual drilling fluid. Continuous 10-foot samples were collected except where circulation was difficult to maintain. Where circulation could not be maintained an air-mist drilling medium was used and no samples were collected. Samples were logged by a geologist in the field and then bagged and sent to the USGS storage facilities in Casper, Wyoming. Field logs were completed for each test hole and are on file in Casper.

The usual geophysical logging procedure was to run a multiconductor probe equipped with gamma-ray, resistance, and spontaneous potential detectors. Where problems existed with drill-hole instability, the drill pipe was used to temporarily case the hole, and a gamma-ray casing collar locator log was run through the drill pipe. The logs were photographically reduced to a vertical scale of 1 inch to 50 feet for convenience in reproducing this report, and the originals are on file at the Casper office.

The identification of lignites from geophysical logs is discussed at length by Kaiser (1974, p. 32), Kaiser and others (1978, p. 67-68), and Rehbein (1977, p. 3-4). Gamma-ray logs were found to be generally the most useful, followed in order of usefulness by density, neutron, acoustic (sonic), and electrical logs. Induction logs, used alone, were found to be the least reliable for the identification of lignite beds, especially near the outcrop. This experience is supported by the logs presented in this report. The single-point resistance log often does not respond to lignites. Is is thought that the water quality and content of the lignites in relation to their enclosing rocks dictates this lack of electrical response.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fieldwork was carried out by the following USGS personnel: Frank B.

Kistner, geologist; Gregg A. Hollomon, technician; Harry R. Cureton, driller.

Supervision and technical guidance were provided by Frank B. Kistner and

Robert C. Lewis.

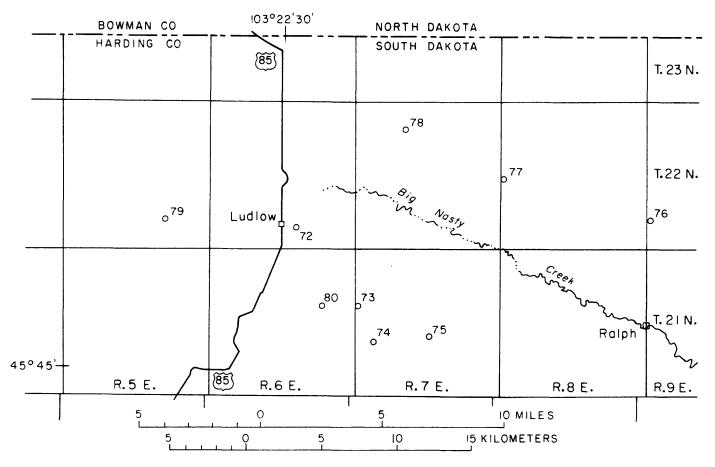


Figure 1. - Coal test holes drilled during 1978 in Harding County, South Dakota, (Hole numbers in Table 1 are preceded by CD-780__.)

Table 1.--Summary of information for nine coal test holes in Harding County, South Dakota

Test-hole	Location				Depth ((feet)	
Number	T.N.	R.E.	Sec.	1/4	Drilled	Logged	
CD-78072	22	6	34	NE	400	390	
CD-78073	21	7	18	NW	200	200	
CD-78074	21	7	19	SE	500	490	
CD-78075	21	7	22	SW	300	300	
CD-78076	22	9	30	SW	540	530	
CD-78077	22	8	19	NW	500	490	
CD-78078	22	7	9	NW	420	417	
CD-78079	22	5	26	SW	620	610	
CD-78080	21	6	14	NE	200	190	

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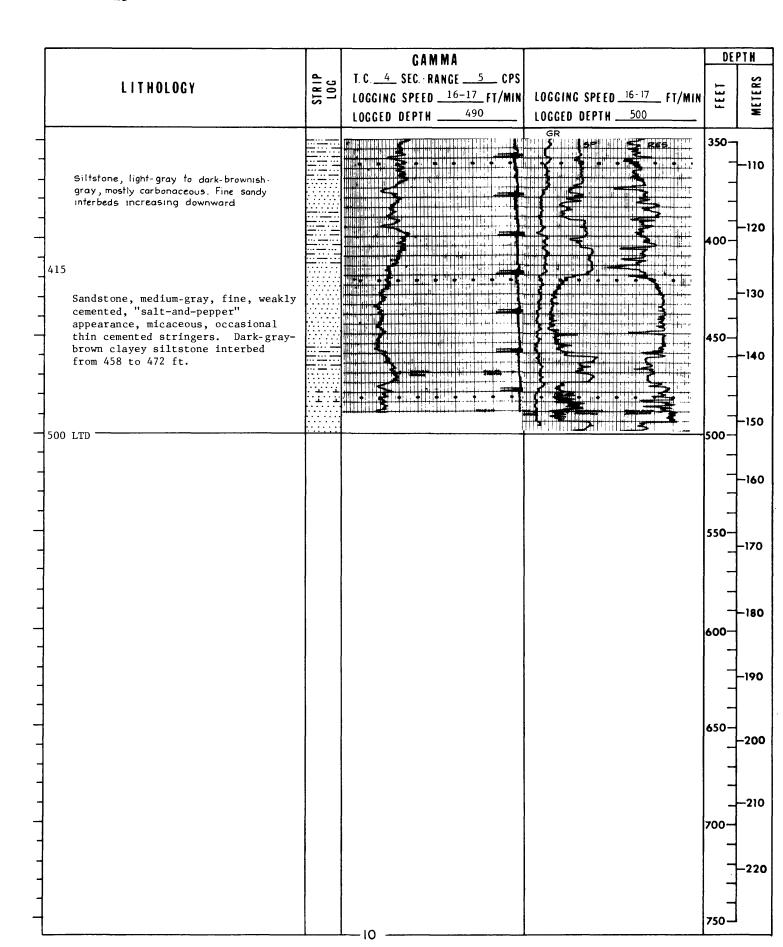
						1 07 2
AREA Southern Willis	·	QUAD NAME				
DATE STARTED 10-25-1978	DATE COMP. 10			ding ST	GROUND acces	kota
	N., R. 6 E. , FOOT	AGE LOC. 890	FNL XPSAL FOOTACI	1650 FXMAX	ELEV 3090)
SIZE AND BIT TYPE: 5-in	n. wing	ROTA			TOTAL DEPTH 400)
DRILLING AGENCY: USGS/	CD/NRMA	DRILL T	YPE: Porta	drill 524	DEPTH TO NR	\
	B. Kistner	GEOPHYSI	CAL LOGS RECORD	ED BY G. A.	Hollomon	
REMARKS: Gamma ray logg "Noisy" SP curv	ged through drill p	ipe			ŕ	
SP = 20 MV RES = 10 OHMS						
		G A M M	1			DEPTH
LITHOLOGY	STRIP	T. C4_ SEC RANG		ACCINO ODEED IC	17 57/2011	FEET
	12	LOGGED DEPTH)GGING SPEED <u>16</u>)GGED DEPTH <u>2</u>	90 FI/MIN	HET I
Sandstone, 1t-brn, silty,	w/white					00
quartzite flakes; thin lig	gnite at 5 ft		-			
Claystone, light-gray; 2ff lignite at 15 ft.	f					4
27		- 3				10
Sandstone, light-brown, fi moderately well sorted, we		1		- MV+	·	4
cemented, micaceous, weat	hered.	\$ -		39		50-
73 Claystone, with lignite in	atorboda (VVV)			3	3	-20
from 78 to 83 and 86 to 89				\$		4
weathered to 90 ft.				<u> </u>	5	-
Sandstone, gray, fine to a ly sorted (clayey) in par	t, weakly	1 3			3	0030
to strongly (125-127 ft) "salt-and-pepper" appeara				7	المسلمسيم	
130	<u> </u>			<u> </u>		40
						4
-						150-
				1	T	– 50
				7		
		\$	+++		<u> </u>	4
				\$ 5		200
Siltstone, gray to dark-b	rownish-			= 3	- -	4
gray with lignite beds fr	om 157 to			\$ 3		70
164 and 177 to 179 ft; pr lignite beds from 145 to	148 and			3 5	-]
from 315 to 316 ft. Nume thick to very thick inter	beds of fine			Z .	2 2	250-
sandstone, and thin cemen below 140 ft.	ted streaks					80
]				1 1 2 3		+
				E)]
4					3	-90 300
4	?==					-
1			ma (1884) 			-100
]						-[100
						350

		GAMMA	DEPTI
LITHOLOGY	STR IP LOG	T.C4_ SEC. RANGE5_ CPS LOGGING SPEED16-17_ FT/MIN LOGGED DEPTH390	FEET
Siltstone, gray-to dark-brownish-gray, with numerous thick to very thick interbeds of fine sandstone.			350-
90 LTD			400- -
			- - - - - - - - - - - - - -
			450— ——1
			500—
			- - - -
			550—
			- - - -
			600-
			650-
			700-
			750

AREA Southern Williston Basin		QUAD NAME Ludlow	v SE	
DATE STARTED 10-26-1978 DATE C	OMP.	10-26-1978 COUNTY	Harding STATE South	n Dakota
LOCATION: SEC. 18 T. 21 N., R. 7 E.	, F00		50 KMEL GROUND FWL ELEV	3090
SIZE AND BIT TYPE: 5-in, wing		ROTARY 200	OTAGE TOTAL CORING O DEPTH	200
DRILLING AGENCY: USGS/CD/NRMA		DRILL TYPE: Portad		NR
REMARKS: SP: 20 MV		GEOPHYSICAL LOGS REC	CORDED BY G. A. Hollomon	
UE MHUUD. BES = 10 OHMS				
		GAMMA T. C 4 SEC RANGE _ 5 CPS		DEPTH
LITHOLOGY	STR IP LOG	LOGGED DEPTH 200		FEET
Sandstone, very light gray, fine, weakly cemented, weathered.			- MV+ 5P RES	°T°
20 Siltstone and claystone, light-brown				
to gray; with interbeds of lignite from 30 to 45 ft and from 48 to 52	···			10
ft. Weathered to 30 ft.				50-
63				-20
Sandstone, light-gray, fine to medium, moderately to strongly				
cemented.				
101				10030
]				
Siltstone and claystone, dark- grayish-brown to light-gray, mostly		¥		-40
carbonaceous, with a 6-ft lignite interbed at 165 ft. Thick sand-	=======================================	***		- -
stone interbeds to 115 ft.		<u> </u>	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	150-
				50
184 Ss, locally strongly cemented;	7.		-300	- -
probable lignite interbed from 187 to 200 LTD ———————————————————————————————————			\$ 5	20060
-				
				70
-				
-				250
				80
				-
<u> </u>				-90
				300
				100
-				350

AREA QUAD NAME Southern Williston Basin Ludlow SE DATE STARTED 10-27-1978 DATE COMP. 10-27-1978 COUNTY Harding STATE South Dakota FEL GROUND KKKK LOCATION: SEC. 19 T. 21 N., R. 7 E. , FOOTAGE LOC. 700 3090 жж ELEV FOOTAGE TOTAL SIZE AND BIT TYPE: 5-in. wing ROTARY 500 CORING DEPTH 500 DEPTH TO USGS/CD/NRMA Portadrill 524 95 DRILLING AGENCY: DRILL TYPE: WATER LITHOLOGY RECORDED BY GEOPHYSICAL LOGS RECORDED BY G. A. Hollomon F. B. Kistner REMARKS: Gamma ray logged through drill pipe SP=10 MV RES=10 OHMS DEPTH GAMMA T. C. 4 SEC. - RANGE 5 CPS LITHOLOGY LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN LOGGED DEPTH . 490 LOGGED DEPTH. 0--0 Sandstone, very light gray to light--10 brown, fine, moderately well sorted, weakly cemented, "salt-and-pepper" appearance, weathered to 80 ft. 50--20 Lignite, brown-black; radioactive in -30 100 upper portion. 114 40 Siltstone, medium-gray. 150-Lignite, brown-black, cleat pattern -50 developed 60 200-70 Siltstone, light-gray to dark-brownish-gray, mostly carbonaceous. Numerous fine sandy interbeds, with sand increasing below 300 ft. 80 Occasional thin cemented stringers. Possible thin lignite at about 210 ft 90 300-100 350

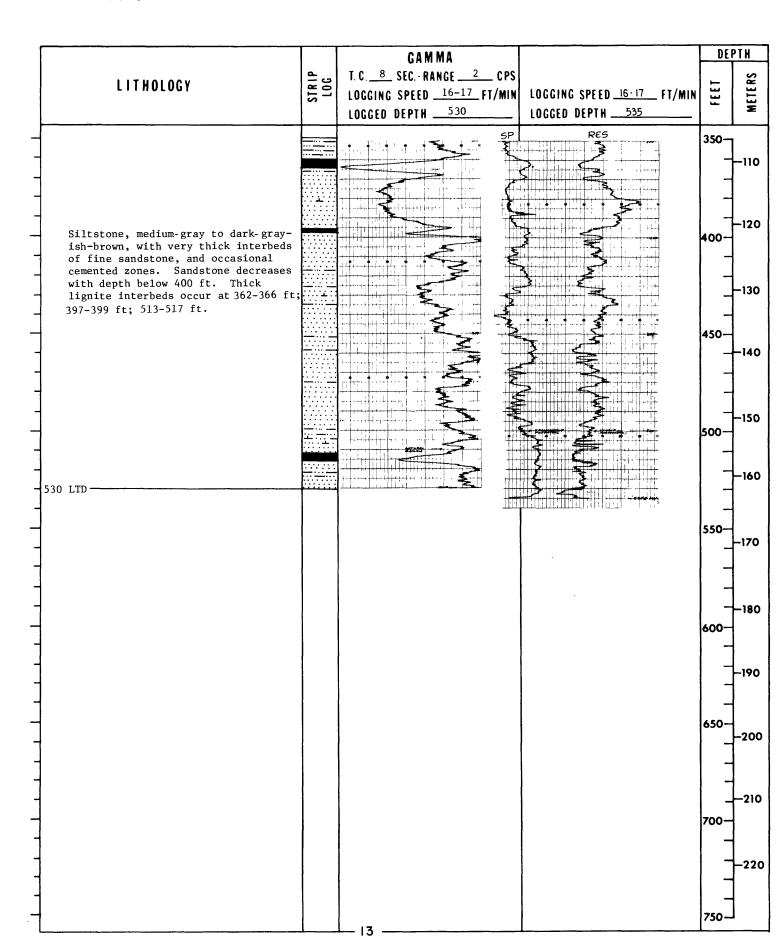
SP=10 MV RES=10 OHMS



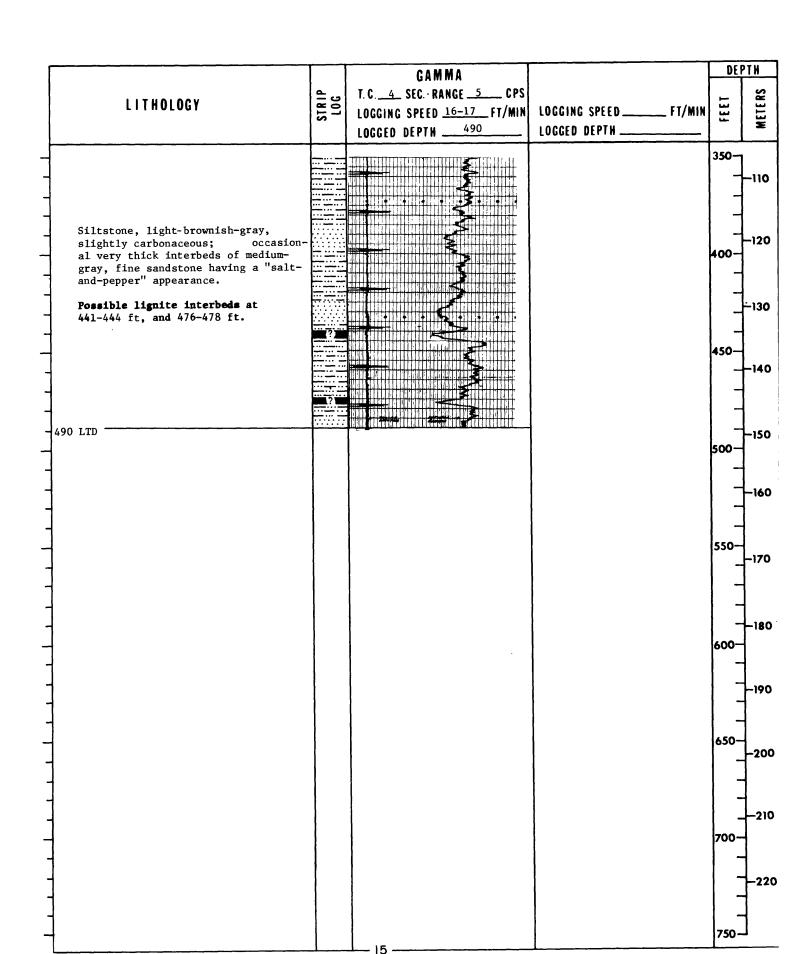
AREA QUAD NAME Southern Williston Basin Ralph SW DATE STARTED 10-28-1978 DATE COMP. 10-28-1978 COUNTY Harding STATE South Dakota GROUND ELEV XXX LOCATION: SEC. 22 T. 21 N., R. 7 E., FOOTAGE LOC. 2150 1100 3035 FOOTAGE TOTAL SIZE AND BIT TYPE: 5-in. wing ROTARY 300 CORING DEPTH 300 DEPTH TO DRILLING AGENCY: USGS/CD/NRMA DRILL TYPE: Portadrill 524 70 WATER F. B. Kistner GEOPHYSICAL LOGS RECORDED BY G. A. Hollomon LITHOLOGY RECORDED BY SP = 20 MV RES = 10 0HMS REMARKS: DEPTH GAMMA T. C. 4 SEC. - RANGE 2 CPS LITHOLOGY LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN 300 LOGGED DEPTH ___ 300 LOGGED DEPTH _ 0-0 Sandstone, very light brownish-gray, fine-to-medium, weakly cemented, slightly micaceous, with occasional light-brown oxidation streaks. -10 50-Lignite and siltstone, black to brown--20 ish-black, some sub-conchoidal fracture and cleat pattern apparent; clayey siltstone, medium-gray to darkgrayish-brown. Weathered to 63 ft. Lignites from 69 to 77 ft; 82 to 89 ft; **⊢30** 100-93 to 100 ft; 106 to 114 ft. 114 40 150 50 Siltstone, medium-brownish-gray to medium-gray, mostly carbonaceous; numerous thick, fine sandy interbeds and occasional thin cement-60 ed zones. Sand content increases 200 below 250 ft, and color becomes medium gray. Possible lignites 211 - 215 ft, and 246 - 247 ft 70 250 80 90 300 LTD -300 -100 350

AREA QUAD NAME Southern Williston Basin Ralph DATE STARTED 10-28-1978 DATE COMP. 10-29-1978 COUNTY Harding STATE South Dakota XXXX GROUND LOCATION: SEC. 30 T. 22 N., R. 9 E. , FOOTAGE LOC. 500 100 3030 ELEV FOOTAGE TOTAL SIZE AND BIT TYPE: 5-in. wing ROTARY 540 CORING 0 DEPTH 540 DEPTH TO DRILL TYPE: Portadrill 524 USGS/CD/NRMA DRILLING AGENCY: LITHOLOGY RECORDED BY F. B. Kistner GEOPHYSICAL LOGS RECORDED BY G. A. Hollomon REMARKS: Gamma ray logged through drill pipe SP = 10 MV RES = 5 OHMS DEPTH **GAMMA** TRIP T. C. 8 SEC. RANGE 2 CPS LITHOLOGY LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN LOGGED DEPTH ____ 530 535 LOGGED DEPTH __ 0--0 Siltstone, light-olive-gray to medium grayish-brown, clayey, mostly carbonaceous. Thin fossiliferous - MV + 10 limestone at 15 ft. Weathered to 30 ft. 50-20 Siltstone, light-brownish-gray, fine sandy, slightly carbonaceous. -30 100-Siltstone and claystone, lightbrownish-gray, with occasional cemented zones. 40 150 150--50 Siltstone, medium-grayish-brown, fine sandy, carbonaceous. -60 200 208 Sandstone, medium-gray, fine, weakly cemented, slightly micaceous, strongly cemented from 217 to 223 ft. Minor dark-grayish-brown carbonaceous 70 siltstone. 247 250 80 Siltstone, medium-gray to dark-grayish-brown, with very thick interbeds 90 of fine sandstone, and occasional 300 cemented zones. Thick lignite interbed occurs at 301-304 ft. 100 350 12

SP = 10 MV RES = 5 OHMS



		LU (UINIL	- 01010	IGIUAL SU	/N 7 L I		T 1 0	
A	REA Southern Williston Basin		QU	AD NAMI	Ralph SW	V			
D	ATE STARTED 10-29-1978 DATE C	OMP.	10-30-	-1978	COUNTY	Harding S	TATE South Da	akota	
L	DCATION: SEC. 19 T. 22 N., R. 8 E.	, F00	TAGE LO)C . 50	FNL XESSE	100 XINDL FWL	GROUND 29	950	
S	IZE AND BIT TYPE: 5-in. wing			ROTA	F00 Ry 500	TAGE CORING O	TOTAL DEPTH	500	
D	RILLING AGENCY: USGS/CD/NRMA			DRILL T		drill 524	DEPTH TO WATER	38	
LI	THOLOGY RECORDED BY F. B. Kistne	r		GEOPHYSI	CAL LOGS REC	ORDED BY G. A.	Hollomon		
R	Gamma ray logged thro SP-20 MV RES = 10 0HMS ELECTRIC LOG SPLICE AT			:					
	LITHOLOGY	STR IP LOG	LOGGIN		GE <u>5</u> CPS 5-17 FT/MIN	LOGGING SPEED _ LOGGED DEPTH _		FEET	METERS
	Siltstone, light-gray to medium-brown-ish-gray, clayey, becoming carbonaceous below 40 ft. Thin gray limestone bed at 35 ft. Weathered to 20 ft.							0-	-0 -10
60	Sandstone, dark-gray to gray, fine, micaceous, weakly cemented and argillaceous to 70 ft. Strongly cemented calcareous zones below 95 ft.					-MV+		- - - - -	-20 -30
1	Siltstone, light-brownish-gray to medium-grayish-brown, carbonaceous; with lignite interbeds from 108 to 112 ft, and from 116 to 121 ft.							100-	-40
134	Sandstone, gray, fine, poorly sorted, weakly cemented to 155 ft. Strongly cemented calcareous zone below 158 ft							150-	-50
	Siltstone, dark-brownish-gray to very					4		200-	-60
1	dark brown, carbonaceous; lignite interbeds from 165 to 172 ft, from 222 to 227 ft, and from 230 to 234 ft.							1	-70
265	Sandstone, medium-gray, fine, moderately to poorly sorted, weakly cemented, micaceous; minor							250 — — — —	-80
311	siltstone interbeds.	?						300-	- 9 0 -100
	gray, fine sandstone having a "salt- and-pepper" appearance. Possible lignite interbed from 323 to 326 ft.							350	

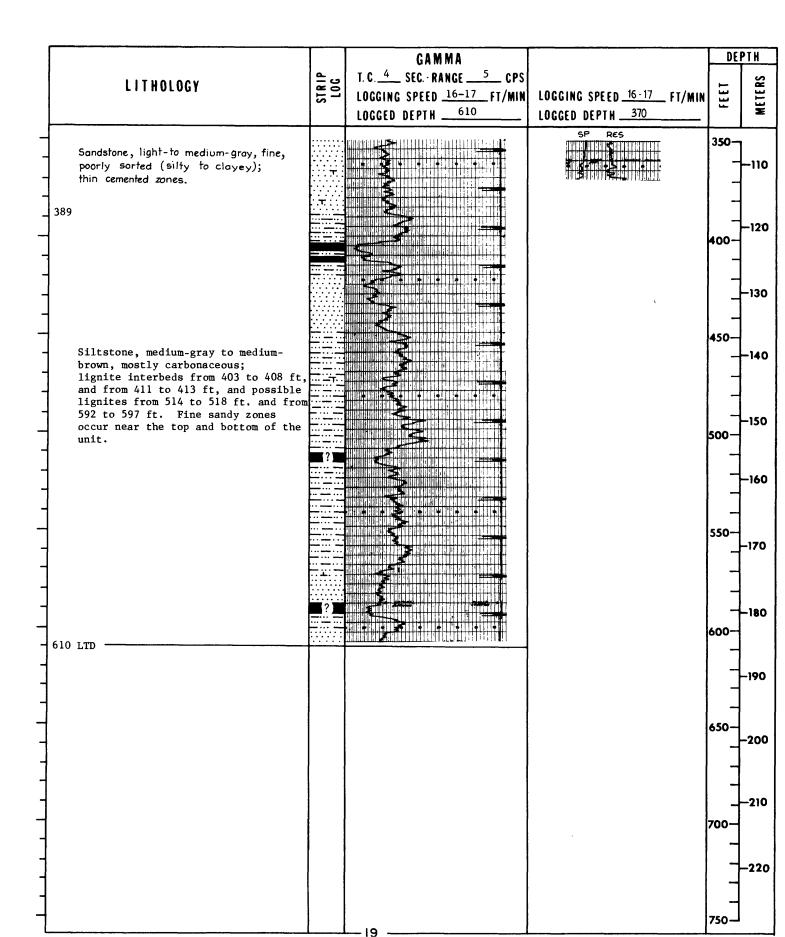


AREA Southern Williston Basin QUAD NAME Tepee Buttes DATE STARTED DATE COMP. COUNTY STATE South Dakota 10-30-1978 10-30-1978 Harding XXXX JW1 GROUND LOCATION: SEC. FOOTAGE LOC. 3020 9 T. 22 N., R. 7 E. 45 55 ELEV FOOTAGE TOTAL SIZE AND BIT TYPE: 5-in. wing ROTARY DEPTH 420 CORING DEPTH TO DRILLING AGENCY: DRILL TYPE: Portadrill 524 USGS/CD/NRMA NR WATER LITHOLOGY RECORDED BY F. B. Kistner GEOPHYSICAL LOGS RECORDED BY G. A. Hollomon REMARKS: DEPTH GAMMA T. C. 8 SEC. - RANGE 2 CPS LITHOLOGY LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN LOGGING SPEED _____ FT/MIN 417 LOGGED DEPTH ___ LOGGED DEPTH _ 0-Sandstone, light-yellow-brown, silty, weathered. Siltstone, light-grayish-brown to 10 light-gray, weathered to 50 ft; black lignite interbed from 61 to 64 ft. 50 20 Sandstone, medium-gray, fine, moderately to poorly sorted; gray siltstone interbeds. 30 100 113 Siltstone, medium-gray to dark-gray-40 ish-brown, carbonaceous in part; black, chippy lignite interbed from 159 to 162 ft. 150 165 Sandstone, medium-gray, fine, moderately well sorted becoming wellsorted below 185 ft; weakly cemented except near top of unit, "salt-and-60 200 pepper" appearance. 208 70 Siltstone, medium-gray (above lignites) to medium-brownish-gray, black lignite carbonaceous; interbeds from 248 to 256 ft and 250 from 258 to 263 ft. 80 Sandstone, light-gray, very fine to fine, "salt-and-pepper" appearance; 90 300 siltstone interbeds. 314 100 Siltstone, medium-brownish-gray to light-gray, slighty carbonaceous, mostly very fine sandy; sand content increasing below 340 ft. 350

LITHOLOGY	STR IP LOG	GAMMA T.C. <u>8</u> SEC. RANGE <u>2</u> CPS LOGGING SPEED <u>16-17</u> FT/MIN LOGGED DEPTH <u>417</u>	LOGGING SPEED FT/MIN	REET HETERS HETERS
Siltstone, medium-brownish-gray to light-gray, slightly carbonaceous, mostly very fine sandy; sand content increasing below 340 ft.				350 110
417 LTD ———————————————————————————————————	··· · · ·			
<u>-</u>		·		450— ——140
				-150
				500- - - - -160
_				
				- - 180
- - -				600- - - -190
				650- -200
				700— —
		17		750

AREA QUAD NAME Ludlow Southern Williston Basin DATE STARTED 10-31-1978 COUNTY DATE COMP. 11-1-1978 Harding STATE South Dakota KKKK LOCATION: SEC. 26 T.22 N., R. 5 E., FOOTAGE LOC. 600 500 3300 FOOTAGE TOTAL SIZE AND BIT TYPE: 4-3/4 in. Tricone; 5-in. wing ROTARY CORING DEPTH 620 DEPTH TO DRILLING AGENCY: USGS/CD/NRMA DRILL TYPE: Portadrill 524 NR WATER LITHOLOGY RECORDED BY GEOPHYSICAL LOGS RECORDED BY G. A. Hollomon F. B. Kistner REMARKS: Gamma ray logged through drill pipe. Collared at top of E-Sandstone (Pipiringos, etal, 1965), Tongue River Member, Fort Union Formation. SP- 20 MV RES = 10 OHMS DEPTH GAMMA T. C. 4 SEC. RANGE 5 CPS LITHOLOGY LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN 610 370 LOGGED DEPTH . LOGGED DEPTH. 10 50 Sandstone, light-yellowish-brown to medium-gray, fine to occasionally coarse, poorly sorted, strongly 20 cemented above 7 ft, moderately cemented from 7 to 50 ft, and weakly cemented below 50 ft except near base of unit, "salt-and-pepper" appearance; silt increases below -30 100-92 ft; unit includes thick to very thick gray siltstone interbeds; radioactive zones below 92 ft. Weathered to 50 ft. 40 150 150-50 60 Siltstone, light-gray to dark-200 grayish-brown, mostly carbonaceous above 280 ft; lignite interbeds from 153 (?) to 155 ft, from 181 to 189 ft, from 194 to 198 ft, from - MV + 282 to 286 ft, from 288 to 292 ft, and from 294 to 296 ft. Uppermost lignite may be thicker than indicated by geophysical log. 250 80 300 100 Sandstone, light-to medîum-gray, fine, poorly sorted (silty to clayey); 350 thin cemented zones.

SP = 20 MV RES = 10 OHMS



UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

NOLE NO CD-78080 SHEET 1 OF 1

AREA Southern Williston Basin QUAD NAME Ludlow SE DATE STARTED 11-1-1978 DATE COMP. 11-1-1978 COUNTY STATE South Dakota Harding FEL GROUND LOCATION: SEC. 14 T. 21 N., R. 6 E. FOOTAGE LOC. 2590 2500 3110 FOOTAGE TOTAL SIZE AND BIT TYPE: 5-in. wing ROTARY 200 200 DEPTH CORING BEPTH TO DRILLING AGENCY: USGS/CD/NRMA DRILL TYPE: Portadrill 524 NR LITHOLOGY RECORDED BY F. B. Kistner GEOPHYSICAL LOGS RECORDED BY G. A. Hollomon REMARKS: Gamma ray logged through drill pipe SP = 20 MV RES = 10 OHMS DEPTH GAMMA T. C. 4 SEC. - RANGE 5 CPS LITHOLOGY LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN LOGGING SPEED 16-17 FT/MIN 200 200 LOGGED DEPTH _ LOGGED DEPTH. 10 Siltstone, light-gray to grayish-50 brown, mostly carbonaceous; lignite interbeds from 32 to 34 ft, 20 from 35 to 43 ft, from 104 to 113 ft, from 119 to 124 ft, from 178 to 180 ft; possible lignite - MV+ interbed from 132 to 136 ft. Very thick fine sandy zones occur throughout the unit. Weathered to 50 ft. 30 100 40 150 50 182 Sandstone Siltstone, medium-grayish-brown, carb 60 200 LTD 200 70 250 80 90 300 100 350 20